

## REMEMBER NOVEMBER!

Through 1949 remember the victory of Nov. 2, 1948. Follow through! Organize and educate! Let's keep this democracy in the hands of the people, where it belongs!

# MONTEREY COUNTY LABOR NEWS

SALINAS, CALIF., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1949

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WHOLE NO. 539

## IBEW, Contractors Must Prepare for Slump—Milne

Belief that a recession or decline is just around the corner and warning that his union will not permit its members to become victims of mismanagement and vicious competition in the electrical contracting industry, was expressed by J. Scott Milne, former San Franciscan now international secretary of the IBEW in a speech before several hundred contractors and union officers at the Moose City Club in Oakland on Thursday, Jan. 27.

He urged contractors to get their house in order today, by getting rid of excessive inventories, and unfair competition. Every contractor, he said, was entitled to a fair overhead and fair profit but getting those things by chiseling on wages and conditions could wreck the electrical contracting industry, weaken the IBEW, and soften the economic and social fabric of the whole nation.

### PUBLIC BOSS

He urged strong and enlightened national Electrical Contractor's Association as well as a strong union and to stress the pitfalls of excesses by either, placed both at the corner of a triangle with the public on the third corner at the apex. The public, he said, will balance the triangle when either side moves too far to the right or left, just as it did when management got the Taft-Hartley act on the law books.

He warned that such laws would mean an end to such joint meetings as the one he was addressing, would stifle the free enterprise of both employers and union men. He asked the contractors, as a matter of self-interest and as good Americans to join Labor in imploring Congress to repeal the Taft-Hartley act.

"Let's be builders," Milne cried in closing, "let's work together. If we do this, if we look to the future instead of the past, free enterprise will prevail, Americanism will stand."

### APPLAUSED

Milne's talk was applauded widely and favorably commented upon by both the contractors present and the big group of union representatives from all over the ninth IBEW jurisdiction.

Milne also:

1. Pointed to the progress being made all over the nation, and especially in California, in writing the one per cent pension fund contribution into contracts, and urged the contractors to co-operate with the Brotherhood in securing this widely-praised provision. He said the International would approve no contracts written without this feature. Local union managers who accept contracts without it are being removed, he warned, and the courts have upheld this position.

2. Saw the fourth round of increases to living standards putting more emphasis on inclusion of such fringes as the one per cent pension contribution, sick leave, and insurance.

3. Urged the wire contractors to get into line contracting.

4. Asked both the contractors and union representatives to take more interest in the Joint Apprenticeship training program.

In connection with the latter, Milne pointed out that even though there was more unemployment in the electrical industry at the present time than at any time in the last twenty years, the interest of the IBEW demanded that high work standards be maintained.

The industry would throw the less competent around its fringes and leave a basis for chiseling that would be bad for everyone. Good apprentices should be developed and those war-born electricians with improper training and short experience should go to school to protect themselves and the union, he said.

### WANT AIR-LIFT

Touching briefly on conditions he found in his recent visit to Europe, he said that he had gotten right into the workers homes in Germany for a firsthand look at their conditions and their thoughts. He also managed to spend a short time on the Russian side of the Iron Curtain. "The gist of the workers' thoughts there," he said, "despite privations, was 'Tell General Clay to continue the air lift and Communism will be defeated.'"

He pointed out that though Socialism as practised in England had its good points, that under it the people there were getting only 20 cents worth of meat a week, two ounces of butter, and no fresh fruit. He also noted that very few of the leaders of the Socialist government were of a union background, but were mostly politicians.

In Canada, where one province had gone to Socialism similar to that of England, he said, Labor unions were barred from representing the workers in the nationalized industries.



J. SCOTT MILNE, IBEW secretary, warns that a recession is impending and that labor and management should act jointly to cushion it, in Oakland address.

## Bill on Full Employment Is Introduced

Washington.—A bill to give substance to the long-range prosperity plans outlined in President Truman's recent messages to Congress was submitted to both House and Senate last week. Sponsors are:

Senators James Murray (Mont.) and John Sparkman (Ala.) and Rep. Wright Patman (Tex.)—all Democrats.

Under the new full employment proposals a reformed Reconstruction Finance Corp. would be permitted to loan up to 15 billion dollars to private businesses and public authorities to "maintain the levels of production, employment and investment" called for in the President's speeches.

While existing business enterprises, including cooperatives, would have first call on the fund, money would also be available to state governments and "regional authorities," like TVA, to expand industrial facilities under their control.

More even distribution of industry between the various sections of the country should be one of the guides to RFC in making full employment loans, the bill's authors said.

The three legislators denied that the bill is particularly designed to meet the crisis in steel production cited in Truman's state of the union message, but they said it could be applied to the steel industry if necessary. Its main purpose, they emphasized, is to provide a backlog of investment to meet possible declines in production and industrial facilities under their control.

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The "Row" is quiet generally although a few sardines are coming by truck from southern ports, officials said. Local sardine fishing season ended January 15.

Start of the summer season is April 15 and several plants are expected to operate during summer months. Anchovies will be packed by some plants during the interim, and possibly some squid, according to reports.

## Filing of Non-Red Oaths Drops 28% in December

Washington.—The National Labor Relations Board reported that 76,851 officials of national and local unions have on file current non-Communist affidavits, a decrease of 28 per cent from the number on file at the end of November 1948.

This was a decrease of 29,383 from the 106,234 who had maintained current affidavits as of November 30, 1948. The 76,851 affidavits currently on file represent an increase of 151 per cent over the 30,651 who had filed up to January 1, 1948.

Filing of these affidavits brought 178 national unions and 7889 locals into full compliance with the affidavit and financial report requirements of the Labor-Management Relations Act as of December 31.

## Frey, Haggerty on Apprentice Com.

Washington.—Four unionists are now members of the federal committee on apprenticeship. Secretary Tobin said last week. Fred N. Aten, Railway Employees Dept. (AFL) president; John P. Frey, Metal Trades Division (AFL); John Green, president of Industrial Union of Marine Workers (CIO); and C. J. Haggerty, California Federation of Labor secretary, are members of the national labor-management apprenticeship policy making body.

## SALINAS CLU CHANGES DATE OF ELECTIONS

Annual elections of officers for the Monterey County Central Labor Union at Salinas will be held henceforth in June and new officials will be installed at the first July meeting, Secretary W. G. Kenyon reported last week.

The change in election date from the former July-August schedule was voted along with several other amendments to council by-laws during the last two meetings of the council, Kenyon said.

Another amendment to the by-laws will set up machinery for an autonomous building trades committee for the Salinas area working as an individual unit but under the charter of the central council, Kenyon added.

Robert Shinn, council president, has been named to the Home Nursing Committee of the Red Cross chapter in Salinas.

New delegate is Jean Hence, from Retail Clerks Union 839 of Salinas.

## Salinas Elec. Wks. Get Own Phone; More to PG&E Job

A private telephone for Salinas Electrical Workers Union 243 has been installed in offices of Business Representative Carl Lara, he announced last week. Number is Salinas 2-2886.

Lara reported that five more electricians were sent to the Pacific Gas & Electric Co. project at Moss Landing last week, bringing to 19 the number of electrical workers on this big project.

In Salinas, Enterprise Electric Co. has started wiring of new homes being erected in the Mission Park subdivision by Pacific Builders, Lara added.

Enterprise Electric Co. also is doing wiring on the Thrifty Drug Co. store in the new Salinas business development on South Main Street.

Louis Electric Co. is wiring the cement mixing plant being built at the Pacific Gas & Electric Co. project site by Pacific Builders to supply cement for foundations and other work in connection with the buildings.

## Summer Fish Canning Plans Still Unknown

Plans for summer canning of fish along Monterey's famed Cannery Row have been made known to officials of the Fish Cannery Workers Union, it was reported last week.

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## PG&E Cafeteria Is Fully Union

Contract covering the new cafeteria for the P. G. & E. plant construction project at Moss Landing was signed last week by James White, for the Associated Caterers, and Culinary-Bartenders Union 345 of Watsonville, which has jurisdiction.

White formerly was chef at Rio Del Mar Country Club. Chef for the cafeteria, which is expected to feed more than 2000 men at height of the project, will be Andrew Siebes, formerly of Loma Linda restaurant near Watsonville.

## Teamster Hurt In Cycle Crash

Lawrence Blakeman, member of Monterey County General Teamsters Union 890 and driver for Salinas Valley Ice Co., was confined to Park Lane Hospital last weekend with a fractured leg, the injury incurred when the motorcycle which he was operating was involved in a crash.

Blakeman would like to have visitors at his hospital bedside and the visiting Committee of Local 890 has been requested by union Secretary Peter A. Andrade to make as many contacts as possible. Friends of Bro. Blakeman are urged to visit him.



FAMOUS PIANIST GETS UNION CARD.—America's best-known pianist, President Truman (center), receives solid gold membership card from President James C. Petrillo (right) of the American Federation of Musicians (AFL). AFL President William Green looks on.

## STATE TRADES PUSH BILLS IN SACRAMENTO

The recent meeting of the State Building and Construction Trades Council Steering and Legislative committees called in San Francisco by President Frank Lawrence decided that the legislative committee should go to work immediately in Sacramento to push enactment of bills which will aid the statewide construction trades picture if enacted.

One of these bills would amend the State Building Code to raise the professional standards in the small contractor field, and would aid the industry in getting rid of the Gypo home contractors who have chiseled on working conditions and wages and bilked the public by selling flimsy built homes. Most of the contractors themselves would like to see this measure passed.

Another bill of importance to the trades would amend the labor code to prohibit employers from firing workers who refuse to work under unsafe conditions.

A state uniform plumbing code is also sought which would safeguard the health of members working on the job by requiring contractors to make sanitary privies available as well as drinking water, first aid, etc.

Mr. Truman took the oath of office during traditional ceremonies before a crowd of 100,000 people who filled every nook and cranny of the vast plaza before the U.S. Capitol.

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As his second point, Mr. Truman reiterated this country's determination to work for world recovery by giving full measure to the European recovery program and promoting trade for all the world's markets.

On the North Atlantic Security Plan, now crystallizing, Mr. Truman focused his third point. He said: "We will strengthen freedom-loving nations against the dangers of aggression," but only within the recognized framework of the United Nations Charter and in the pattern of the Western Hemisphere arrangement.

In his fourth point Mr. Truman proposed a wholly new program, still to be expounded in detail, for sharing American scientific and industrial progress with the rest of the world. He made the proffer on a global scale, but it was understood that it is intended primarily for the colonial areas of Africa and Asia.

The steering committee will meet again soon in Santa Barbara to agree on an agenda for a state convention — it will be called for the latter part of June, possibly also in Santa Barbara, if available.

On the committee are Louis Buck, W. A. Garoni, Al Clem, A. J. Lund, Edward Brady, L. T. Long and James T. Mann. Seven men are on the legislative committee and both are representative of the building trades from all sections of the state.

Painters Busy In Salinas Area

Union Painters and Linoleum Layers of Salinas Local 104 are finding more and more employment, Business Representative Carl Lara reports.

The AFL wants a test vote on repeal, the league said, "to demonstrate clearly who are our true friends. A final vote on a compromise (so-called package) bill amending the act might prove meaningless. Our friends would vote for it as the best possible and our enemies would vote for it as the worst possible."

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Wharton Floor Covering Co. has contract for linoleum work on the new telephone warehouse on Griffin street.

New Bathhouse At P. G. Started

Construction of a new bathhouse at the swimming pool at the beach in Pacific Grove was started last week by Stoltz, Inc., general contractor. The project is expected to cost nearly \$50,000.

Teachers in Congress

Washington.—Four members of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) won Congressional seats in the recent election. Senators Paul Douglas and Hubert Humphrey, and Representatives Andrew Blemmer and Thurman Crook have all had long experience as fighters for union and educational benefits.

Meanwhile, picketing of the Pep Creamery unit in Salinas was halted last week by the international union of culinary workers and bartenders last week after pickets had patrolled before the house for 13 hours.

Action by International President Hugo Ernst of the union was based on the point that the Salinas unit is under a contract with Local 467 of Salinas and that picketing might be illegal.

Meanwhile, picketing of Pep Creamery units in Monterey, Santa Cruz and Watsonville was being continued by Local 483 of Monterey and Local 345 of Santa Cruz County.

No new developments were reported last week as the dispute entered its seventh week. No settlement was in sight, either, it was added.

## OUR AIM:

To create a better understanding among Labor, Industry, and the Public. To promote and develop a stronger AMERICAN and DEMOCRATIC editorial and news policy of A. F. of L. ideals.

## TEMO ELECTION FOR TRUSTEE IS CALLED OFF

### TO MEMBERS OF TEAMSTERS UNION No 890:

There will be no election for trustee next Thursday, as originally scheduled, due to action of Tom Rubio, incumbent trustee, who declined to seek reelection.

Rubio withdrew because of inability to give necessary time to continue as officer of Local 890, according to Secretary A. Andrade. Rubio has been an active member and a good officer for past years, Andrade added.

As result of Rubio's action, the office of trustee automatically goes to Henry Parma, construction driver, who was the only other nominee. Parma, for many years active in the union, will serve for three years.

## Picketing Due At Prison Farm Near Soledad

Action of Governor Warren referring back to the state director of the department of correction of the dispute over use of state prisoners in building trades work may result in picketing of the medium security prison near Soledad, union officials said last week.

Protests filed by Salinas unions with Mr. Magee, head of the department of correction, against use of convict labor on work usually done by contract labor proved fruitless several weeks ago, thereby causing the protests to be referred to Warren.

While no plans are laid as yet for any such action, it was pointed out that contractors as well as union people suffer from the state's apparent new policy of using prisoners for erecting new buildings.

Picketing of the Soledad prison farm, where union workmen are building a sewage disposal system now while prisoners are erecting a dairy barn, warehouses and other buildings, might cause the establishment of a definite state policy for such matters, officials said.

A meeting of officials of building trades unions affected will be called soon to work out policy. Warren's action of referring the proposition to the correction director was outlined in a letter received by W. G. Kenyon of the Central Labor Council.

## More Carpenters On PG&E Project; More Work Due

On the committee are Louis Buck, W. A. Garoni, Al Clem, A. J. Lund, Edward Brady, L. T. Long and James T. Mann. Seven men are on the legislative committee and both are representative of the building trades from all sections of the state.

With the number of carpenters on the \$50,000,000 project now at 37, Harter said he has hope for a steady increase in calls for men.

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RUNNING U. S. RIGHT

Since our late war ended a large portion of our press and publicists generally have been giving an abnormal amount of attention to the running of affairs in Europe, Asia and even Africa and correspondingly little attention to the running of affairs in the United States.

Till the election of Nov. 2nd there was a widespread and deep-seated movement on to turn the running of our country over to big business, which could not possibly have resulted otherwise than in the destruction of many labor unions, many small business enterprises and the bankruptcy of many independent farmers. The purpose of all the war talk and red scares was probably to set up a smoke screen while big business was taking over.

Now that the American people with their votes have halted this swing to complete domination by big business is it not high time that we began giving more thought to the running of our own United States and not so much attention to the affairs of foreign countries.

No matter what we do or don't do the people themselves of every country on the face of the earth will have to solve their own problems. The less we meddle with their international affairs the better. If we can run our own country so well that others will want to follow our example we will really become a world influence for good. Let us get busier than ever putting our own house in order.

MORE THAN GESTURES REQUIRED

There was a time when cunning politicians could go a little ways in the direction of doing something for which the general public was clamoring loudly, then justify their action with the explanation that it was a gesture in the direction of doing something that a large part of the people wanted. For a time this method of soft-soaping the voters proved quite effective in gaining votes. It seems to many that it was an improvement on the former position of most politicians to do absolutely nothing for the majority of the people who had elected them.

Today, however, mere gestures are very much out of date and are no longer the vote-getters they used to be. The reason is that our people are no longer inclined to be satisfied by outbursts of this nature. The average citizen among the American voters demands something more substantial than just a gesture. If repeal of the Taft-Hartley act was promised, most of our people, who are demanding such repeal, expect just that and will not be satisfied by something far short of what was promised or which goes only part way in that direction.

The politician of today, who stakes his hopes on making a few gestures, is liable to find himself elected to stay home next time he tries for re-election. Today we expect our lawmakers to deliver what they promised instead of handing us some miserable substitute. No longer will empty and ineffective gestures suffice.

GHOSTS AND SCARES

Many of our older people can remember a time when ghosts made up a pretty large portion of the thinking and beliefs of a considerable number of people. They imagined they could hear and see ghosts during the spooky hours of night and the numerous tales they had heard made the world of spooks something vividly real to such people as believed these night prowlers actually existed.

Today there are people, who still believe in ghosts, but they are not nearly so numerous as they used to be. However, we do have a type of phantom that is exceedingly prolific in modern thinking. Our political atmosphere is fairly reeking with scare upon scare until a lot of people see the equivalent of imps of various descriptions in every political move that is made. They actually see red, wherever they go.

What these much maligned and vividly painted characters of today actually believe or are really doing during their spare moments nobody seems to have very tangible information about but like the ghosts of old they are greatly feared by those who have been told over and over again that they constitute the chief menace to human society today, until many normally intelligent people devoutly believe it. As with the witches of old, some hold they should be prosecuted, denied the right to work, deported, and there are those who would have them hanged. Well, since so many of our forbears believed in ghosts perhaps it is not so strange that their children should be easily susceptible to fall for scares that have been carefully cooked up to influence their beliefs and especially their political thinking. But let us not permit these scares to prevent us and our country from continuing to go forward.

The human race is in its best condition when it has the greatest degree of liberty.—Dante.

GRIN or  
GROAN

He: "Pardon me, dear, but your stockings seem wrinkled."  
She: "You brute! I have no stockings on."

A California woman is suing for divorce because her husband would not get his hair cut. When the terms of alimony are announced is when he'll probably get his trimming.

Traffic sign in Pennsylvania village: "Slow. No hospital."

The puzzled electrician called to his partner, "Hey, put your hand on one of those wires."  
After his partner did so, the electrician asked, "Feel anything?"  
Partner: "No."

Electrician: "Good! I wasn't sure which was which. Don't touch the other or you'll drop dead."

There's always one consolation about matrimony. When you look around you can always see someone who's worse.

A test of good manners is being able to put up pleasantly with bad ones.

A businessman from one of the Latin American republics tells that he wrote a letter placing an order for an engine capable of a thousand revolutions a minute. The letter was intercepted by government agents, whereupon the businessman was called before El Presidente who said: "One revolution a day we can handle, but a thousand revolutions a minute—too much."

"The Taft-Hartley Act isn't half bad," the speaker declared.

"No," the union man in the second row chirped in, "it's ALL bad!"

When the white men discovered this continent, the Indians were running it. No taxes, no national debt, and the women did all the work. The palefaces thought they could improve on a system like that!

Husband: "You must think auto-mobiles grow on trees."  
Wife: "Silly! Everybody knows they come from plants!"

There are 20,000,000 women in the U. S., says the Bureau of Labor Statistics, who are essentially idle. These women have no children under 18, they are not gainfully employed, they do not work on farms nor are they too old or otherwise unable to work. With all that is yet undone in the world they are bored stiff.

Hitting the ceiling is a poor way of getting up in the world.

Our niece's young daughter got her first glimpse of the real Santa this Christmas. She told us all about it. She said she was awakened by some noise and saw Santa at the mantle filling her stocking. The light was very dim but she saw him complete his job, turn away, stub his toe on a chair and say "Darn," and then get into bed with her mother.

Bess Ellis told us that Swedish girls call their girl-friends "Smorgasbords."

A college education enables a girl to get a job as secretary to a man who never went to school.

Persons avaricious—  
Always are suspicious—  
Their little grasping sphere  
Is filled with money fear—  
They seem to have a living dread

Or being hard up when they're dead!

America is a country of wide-open faces, is made up of 48 states and the State of Poverty where most of us live.—American schoolboy's essay.

We all forgive and forget; how else could politicians be re-elected? —"The Word."

CONSTRUCTION

(Courtesy "Daily Pacific Builder")

Eastbay sewer, Section 4, N. Interceptor, Berkeley to Bay Bridge approach, \$1,435,160, Stoltze, Inc.

S. F. office, warehouse bldg., L. J. Meyberg, Valencia and McCoppin, plans up, \$500,000.

Marin convent, San Anselmo, \$900,000, Robt. McCarthy, S. F.

Mountain View subdivision, under way, \$10 million, Los Altos Land Co.

San Mateo, apt. bldgs. (10), Hillsdale, D. D. Bohanon, permits.

Columbia Basin Proj., river, spillway improvements, Odair, Wash., \$1,804,000, Pacific Bridge Co., S. F.

S. F. parochial high school, Phelan and Judson, \$2,507,570, Cahill Bros.

Oregon dam, N. Santiam River, Detroit Dam, \$20 million, bids in.

Fresno powerhouse, at Edison Big Creek No. 3 plant, So. Calif., Edison Co., plans up, \$19,406,500.



U. S. CONSTITUTION  
CONTROLS INFLATION  
AND DEFLATION LAWS

By A. F. ESTENSEN

Inflation and deflation are caused by the unconstitutional use of the money and credit of the U. S. A. by the domestic and international financiers who selfishly collect a tribute from the Government that gives them free of any charge whatsoever (except the cost of printing) the money and credit they use in their financial exploitation of our nation. (See National Bank Act of 1863 and subsequent Bank Act of 1864.)

The legislative branch of our government has the power under the U. S. A. Constitution to borrow money on the credit of our country. See article one, section eight, paragraph two. They also have the power to coin and regulate the value of money; see article one, section eight, paragraph five.

It is up to you to recommend to your congressmen and your senators to use the most economic and sensible method to finance U. S. Government projects in peace or war.

Now about Gold, Thomas Edison said, quote, "Gold is not money until the people of the United States and other nations put their stamp of approval on it. It is not the Gold that makes the dollar; it is the dollar that makes the gold. Take the dollar out of the gold, and leave it merely yellow metal and it sinks in value. Gold is established by law, just as silver was and gold could be dis-established, demonetized by law just as silver was."

Mr. Thomas Edison goes on: "The people are so ignorant of what they think are the intricacies of the money system that they are easily impressed by big words, but maybe we have passed beyond the time when only the thoughtful two per cent of the people think. The only dynamite that works in this country is the dynamite of a sound idea. I think we are getting a sound idea on the money question, the people have an instinct which tells them that something is wrong and that the wrong somehow enters in money." End of quote.

That raises the question. How long are you as an important stockholder in the greatest business on earth, the Government of the U. S., going to tolerate the misuse of the money and credit of this nation?

Let this be every true American's economic doctrine: "I challenge the right of anyone to charge the Government of my country interest on its own credit and money."

Under this act, even though the Government prints the money, it cannot be used to pay for goods or services directly. The money must be turned over to the banks with payment for this same project twice, sometimes three times, the original cost. If we would issue currency, directly, only those who contributed in some useful way in material, labor and engineering skill would receive any money.

Thomas Edison said, quote, "The element that makes the bond good makes the bill good also. Both are promises to pay; but one promises fattens the usurer and the other helps the people." End of quote.

Andrew Jackson said, quote, "If Congress has the right under the Constitution to issue paper money it was given to them to be used by themselves, not to be delegated to individuals or to corporations. In 1863 Congress relinquished that power and turned it over to the banks of the country, under the National Banking Act."

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Under this act, even though the Government prints the money, it cannot be used to pay for goods or services directly. The money must be turned over

## Labor Wants Job and Home Security, Boss Wants Dough

**New York.**—In a study shortly to be published by the 20th Century Fund, researchers report that while organized labor and management agree on many objectives there are still large areas of disagreement on aims between them. Much of the trouble stems from the unwillingness of many employers to accept trade unions as permanent and necessary institutions, the report finds.

Entitled "Partners in Production," the report will be issued by the Fund's labor committee, of which AFL, CIO, business, university and government officials are members.

### LABOR'S AIM

Labor's basic aim, the committee believes, is:

1. A sense of security both on the job and in the community.

2. Opportunities for workers to advance—fair chances for promotion in the plant and general betterment of their lives.

3. More human treatment on the job—including being consulted on things affecting labor's welfare.

4. A sense of dignity, a feeling of doing useful, constructive work.

### BOSSES' AIM

Management, on the other hand, stresses these points:

1. Good business for the company.

2. Good relations with employees, including keeping them satisfied with working conditions and retaining their loyalty.

3. Freedom to manage, without interference from workers or their unions.

4. More responsibility on the part of employees and unions, business-like relationships that will assure the company's fulfilling its contracts.

While wage rates are the subject of most negotiations, and seem to cause most strikes, the researchers believe that other factors are actually more important when industrial conflict appears.

Labor has no quarrel with management's desire for good business,

## "Senator PG&E Downey"

By DREW PEARSON

Busy-as-a-bird-dog Senator Sheridan Downey, sometimes called "The Pacific Gas and Electric" Senator from California, has been quite active recently re his own worries over re-election. However, he took time out the other day to do some lobbying which won't help his election chances.

Downey, a likable and convivial Senator, never has bothered too much about his own California colleagues in the House of Representatives. Scarcely had two new Californians settled in their congressional offices, however, but they had calls from good old Sheridan about repealing the 160-acre limitation on water rights in Central California.

Downey followed this up by taking the two new congressmen—Cecil White of Fresno and Clinton McKinnon of San Diego—out to lunch. He made no bones about arguing that they should vote to remove the 160-acre restriction, placed on reclamation projects to help the small farmers.

**Congressman White happens to own 6000 acres of California land.** However, he told the senior Senator from his state that he was barking up the wrong tree. Congressman McKinnon feels likewise.

Sheridan is a persevering gentleman, however. Last year he published a mysterious and expensively bound book called "They Would Rule the Valley" and sent it out as lobbying literature. The book carried no identification as to its publisher or as to who paid for its publication, Downey, the author, is not wealthy, and could not well afford to finance a book with no sales value. But he never did reveal who paid for this expensive piece of propaganda literature. (Reprinted from "Fresno Labor Citizen.")

## Rheumatic Fever Worse Than Polio

**San Francisco.**—A report which identifies rheumatic fever as a far worse killer and crippler of school-age children than polio was submitted to the State Legislature last week by the State Department of Public Health.

The report estimated the number of rheumatic fever victims in California, analyzed facilities and needs for diagnosis, treatment and care of cases, and made detailed recommendations for an intensive state-wide attack on all phases of this problem. The disease was described as one of the most costly to treat due to the long-term hospital and convalescent care required. A summary statement presented to the legislators said in part:

"Rheumatic fever damages the hearts of many of its victims. Its cause is unknown and there is no shortcut cure. The first attack may be followed by others. It is estimated that 7000 afflicted children in California now need special treatment and care if they are to grow up as useful, self-supporting citizens."

"Like tuberculosis, this disease demands many months of bed rest under close medical supervision. Some cases need years of convalescent care, including vocational and other specialized training. Treatment is so expensive that 95 per cent of the families in which rheumatic fever occurs cannot pay for all of it."

"In addition to what the private physicians and hospitals are now doing, community health and welfare services must be developed for a more adequate program to combat the ravages of this greatest enemy of childhood. State financial aid seems essential to the job."

According to Dr. Wilton L. Halverson, state director of public health, rheumatic fever cases "have been found in every section of California, and it is certain that hundreds of cases are still unrecognized because this disease is so difficult to diagnose by ordinary techniques."

"These children must be sought out in every community. They must have treatment during acute stages of the disease, and long-term convalescent care. There is no other way to prevent or minimize permanent heart damage," Dr. Halverson declared.

## GI Benefits Not Taxable

Disability compensation, pension or subsistence allowance paid to veterans or their dependents by the Veterans Administration are not considered as income for income tax purposes, L. C. Chapman, manager of the Los Angeles Regional PA office has reminded veterans.

However, income that veterans may earn on part-time jobs while attending educational institutions full-time, or earn while on-the-job training, is subject to taxation under existing tax laws.

Also subject to taxation is the earned income of veterans or their dependents drawing disability compensation or pension. Only the compensation or pension paid by VA is tax-exempt.

Natural gas was first used as an illuminant in 1824, at Fredonia, N.Y.



## Monopolies Gobble Up 2450 Little Guys With War Profit

A number to remember is 2450. There is nothing to show that anyone will win a lottery with it. But it is a useful number all the same, because it exposes some of the things which are happening to our country.

Between 1940 and 1948, 2450 independent American businesses disappeared. During all those years business was booming. The 2450 independent concerns were not driven into bankruptcy by hard times. They were swallowed up by dominant monopolies, growing still more dominating.

The artists who paint magazine covers are fond of painting country stores. A scene showing men in work clothes sitting on cracker boxes around a stove, eating apples and swapping philosophies, seems to symbolize free enterprise.

### NO MORE TO CONQUER

The only thing wrong with the picture is that the symbol is getting hard to find. A Federal Trade Commission report on mergers says:

"Like Alexander the Great, the modern monopolist may have to bring his merger activities to a halt, owing simply to the imminent absence of 'New Worlds to Conquer.'"

The merger movement has been going on for years. Since 1919, according to the FTC, more than 11,000 independents have been taken over by monopoly. The 2450 simply represent the latest crop.

They were snapped up by big concerns with the huge profits which have piled up since the war started.

### EXPANSION PRESSURE

As the FTC puts it, profits provide "the financial wherewithal with which to effect merger." Beyond that, the report says, profits exert a powerful pressure on business to expand. Expansion means not only adding to existing plants, but soaking up the small fry.

The profit picture drawn by FTC is familiar but it can stand repeating. Take 1939 as a base or normal year. Between 1941 and 1944 annual profits after taxes amounted to about \$10 billion, double the 1939 level. In 1946 they were 2½ times as great as in 1939. And in 1947 they had soared to 3½ times the 1939 base.

The FTC figures reveal that most of the mergers during the 1940's were concentrated in a few fields. In the heavy, basic industries most of the merger movement was over long ago. You would not expect the corner electric to make big generators.

### LAST STRONGHOLDS

In foods, textile, clothing and chemical industries mergers have been heaviest. These fields were the last stronghold of the independent producer.

Even so there have been some recent mergers among the giants. For example, in November 1945 Pittsburgh Coal Co. merged with Consolidated Coal Co. Pitt-Consol became thereby the biggest U. S. soft coal producer. In the process, incidentally, there was a linking of two of the country's major financial interests, the Mellons and the Hannas. And, through a joint program of synthetic fuel research,

**STRIKERS UNDAUNTED BY RAIN.**—Undaunted by rain, employees of the Parker Drug Co. in Brooklyn, N.Y., members of an AFL and an unaffiliated local, maintained solidarity on the picket line until they won all their demands. The workers are members of Local 325, Hotel and Restaurant Employees' International Alliance (AFL) and Local 1199, Retail Drug Store Employees' Union (unaffiliated).

## Medical, Dental Aid To Boost Health Insurance

**Washington.**—Sen. Claude Pepper (D., Fla.) said Jan. 13 that he and two associates are at work on an omnibus health bill which would vastly supplement the proposed national health insurance program.

In conference with Sen. James E. Murray (D., Mont.), co-author of the health insurance measure re-introduced Jan. 5, and Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.), Pepper has worked out preliminary stages of the legislation and was awaiting word from the White House to go ahead with it.

The bill would carry out all the health measures proposed in President Truman's state of the union message and would be aimed primarily at broadening and strengthening medical service in all parts of the country, particularly in rural areas.

Plans for health insurance contemplate a tremendously increased demand for medical, dental and nursing care when the program gets into full swing, Pepper explained. The proposed omnibus bill would result in a greatly increased number of hospitals, physicians, nurses and dentists.

The program, worked out by the senators in conferences with Security Director Oscar E. Ewing, is divided into the following classifications:

(1) Federal aid in new hospital construction; (2) federal aid for medical research; (3) aid to medical schools and students including federal scholarships for rural youth who want to get a medical education and return home to practice; (4) a national program of nurse recruitment, including educational opportunities for girls in rural and small town areas; (5) extension of the present U. S. Public Health Service; and (6) an extensive dental program including recruitment of dental students, scholarships and extension of dental services to rural areas.

The proposed bill would supplement the national health insurance program outlined in the bill re-introduced Jan. 5 by Murray and other senators.

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